

# ERIE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

## QUESTIONS & ANSWERS REGARDING RFP # 1316VF: Work Experience, Vocational Training, GED, ESL

*Questions submitted via e-mail and at the Bidder's Conference on June 10, 2013*

QUESTION		ANSWER
1.	Please provide the current incumbent's name.	The current holder of this contract is the Adult Learning Center.
2.	Why is the RFP being offered now? Is there a problem with the current provider?	RFP's are generally released on a 3-year cycle. Releasing an RFP does not indicate a problem with the current provider.
3.	How many providers will be chosen to offer these services?	Generally only one provider is chosen for this contract, however the County reserves the right to select more than one provider if that best suits the needs of the Department. There are several contract offerings that are similar to this service, each targeting different populations. Not all are on the same RFP cycle.
4.	Does the winning proposer have to provide all of the work experience themselves, or can they cultivate relationships with other community agencies to arrange for work experiences offsite?	The winning proposer can make their own arrangements with other work experience providers, as long as they are not-for-profit agencies.
5.	How is the winning proposer reimbursed for services provided?	The provider agency must provide monthly reports of all participants in the program, for both attendance and progress. Payment is made when certain agreed-upon benchmarks are met.
6.	The RFP states that a minimum of 25 hours per week must consist of the Work Experience component. Does that include ESL attendees, who attend much more than that in ESL classes per week? It seems like ESL is being counted towards the 25 hours.	Even ESL attendees must fulfill the 25 hours per week Work Experience component. The individuals attending ESL more than 25 hours per week may not be the same population targeted by this RFP. They may have an Employment Plan created in conjunction with their Employment Counselor that focuses on ESL.
7.	Where do the referrals come from?	The ECDSS Employment Counselor will make all referrals to the program.
8.	Can individuals come to the provider agency directly and join the program?	The provider agency must contact the individual's ECDSS Employment Counselor to be sure the individual meets the eligibility criteria for the program.
9.	The RFP says this program must serve 300 individuals PER MONTH. Is this correct?	At any given time, 300 individuals should be participating in the program. It does not mean 300 <u>new</u> individuals each month. Each participant will have an Individual Service Plan, and it will be at the provider's discretion to determine the time frames needed for each individual to achieve their goals.
10.	Can proposers put in a proposal to only offer PART of the requested services?	Agencies can PARTNER with each other to put in a complete proposal, each offering part of the required services.
11.	How are outcomes measured? Does it entail certain scores on standardized tests?	Each proposer can outline their program- specific methods of measuring outcomes in their proposal. Each participant will have different goals, and measures of success will vary for each participant.